

NEWS RELEASE

Alabama Department of Public Safety

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DPS URGES ALABAMIANS TO PREPARE FOR HURRICANE SEASON *Season Runs from June through November*

MONTGOMERY — The Department of Public Safety strongly encourages Alabamians to prepare for the advent of hurricane season and the resulting weather-related hazards that may affect their homes and families, according to DPS Director Col. Mike Coppage.

“Being prepared is essential to protecting life and property,” said Coppage. He said troopers and other emergency response providers are prepared to respond to disaster situations, and they urge Alabamians to take responsibility for storm preparedness by having a disaster plan in place.

Coppage encouraged Alabamians to closely monitor news bulletins during severe weather situations, as such conditions may change rapidly. He also reminded them to monitor news reports, rather than calling trooper posts or other emergency responders, to keep phone lines free for emergency communications.

Recommended actions for hurricane/storm preparedness include:

- ◆ Keeping emergency supplies on hand, such as medications, nonperishable food, water, battery-powered weather radio, flashlight, extra batteries, and a first-aid kit.
- ◆ Identifying the safest area within the home, and available community shelters.
- ◆ Having a point of contact and a meeting place in the event family members are separated when disaster strikes. Making an emergency telephone contact list available to members of the household.
- ◆ Keeping vehicles in good working order and full of fuel in advance of an approaching storm. Remember that gasoline may be in short supply along evacuation routes and in the aftermath of hurricanes.
- ◆ Removing diseased and damaged tree limbs before a storm strikes.
- ◆ Making sure phones, pagers and other electronic devices are fully charged well ahead of the storm.
- ◆ Identifying evacuation routes ahead of time, and evacuating immediately if advised to do so.

Coppage said additional information regarding storm preparedness is available on the American Red Cross Web site, <http://www.redcross.org>, and the National Hurricane Center Web site, <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov>.

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